

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1862

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, CU, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANS WONDER ABOUT CUBA'S NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS

REF: USUN 0751

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH AN AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIAL ON MARCH 7, AN EMBASSY OFFICER INFORMALLY WONDERED
HOW SOMALIA'S MUSLIM CORELIGIONISTS WERE VIEWING CUBA'S NON-
ALIGNED CREDENTIALS NOW THAT "THE GURKHAS OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE"
WERE SO PROMINENTLY ENGAGED IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. THE AFGHAN
REPLIED BY OBSERVING THAT HIS COUNTRY, AS ONE OF THE EARLIEST
MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (OF THOSE ORIGINAL LEADERS,
ONLY AFGHANISTAN'S PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD, YUGOSLAVIA'S
PRESIDENT TITO, AND TUNISIA'S PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA ARE STILL
IN OFFICE), WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE NEED FOR STRICT ADHERENCE
TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE MOVEMENT (A THEME ALSO
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STRESSED, INCIDENTALLY, IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE COVERING PRESIDENT
DAOUD'S RECENT STATE VISIT TO INDIA). HE FULLY EXPECTED THE CASE
OF CUBA TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE MAY 6-10 MEETING OF THE
NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE AT KABUL.

2. AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY
INFORMED THAT THE EMBASSY POLITICAL STAFF WILL PROBABLY BE

ASSISTED BY A TDY OFFICER DURING THE NACC MEETING. THEY HAVE NOT YET EXPRESSED ANY OPPOSITION, NFOR INDICATED WHETHER THE CUBAN OBJECTIONS EXPRESSED IN PARAGRAPH 8 OF THE REFTEL HAVE EVEN REACHED THEM. WE DOUBT AT THIS TIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN WILL PERMIT THIS TO BECOME AN ISSUE ON ITS TURF, AND THINK THAT THEY WILL REGARD MR. GRAHAM'S PRESENCE AS OUR OWN INTERNAL BUSINESS.

3. RETURNING TO THE TOPIC OF THE CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, WE HAVE NOTED THAT THE AFGHAN PRESS, WHICH IS GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED, HAS RECENTLY BEEN CARRYING FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTS OF THE FIGHTING, BASED ON THE NEWS DISPATCHES OF WESTERN WIRE SERVICES. THESE REPORTS HAVE INCLUDED SUCH TOUCHY INFORMATION AS THE FACT THAT ETHIOPIAN TANKS ARE "MANNED BY FOREIGNERS." (COMMENT: BECAUSE THE AFGHANS MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR POWERFUL NORTHERN NEIGHBOR, THEY ARE UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT TO IDENTIFY THE "FOREIEIGNERS" BY NAME (AND IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY HERE EITHER) -- BUT THAT SLIGHT DISPLAY OF CONSIDERATION CANNOT MAKE THE RUSSIANS ANY HAPPIER ABOUT THIS IMPLIED CRITICISM.
AMSTUTZ

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